

The Library Assistant :

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PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

FIFTEENTH INAUGURAL MEETING.

The INAUGURAL MEETING of the Fifteenth Session will be held at the UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, SOUTH KENSINGTON, S.W., on **Wednesday, 13th October at 8 o'clock, p.m.**

The Chair will be occupied by **Sir Albert K. Rollit, LL.D., D.C.L., Litt.D.**, Fellow and Senator of the University of London.

The INAUGURAL ADDRESS will be delivered by the Principal of the University of London, **HENRY A. MIERS, Esq., M.A., D.Ss., F.R.S.**, on "THE GOLDEN AGE OF READERS."

Facilities will be given for viewing the fine Goldsmith Library, and a small exhibition of rare books will be arranged. Members are requested to reserve the date of this unusually important Meeting, and Chief Librarians are cordially invited to be present.

We hope to publish the completed Sessional Programme in our next issue.

NORTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

A quarterly meeting of the North-Eastern Branch of the Library Assistants' Association will be held at the **CARNEGIE LIBRARY, BENWELL, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE**, on **Wednesday, September 22nd, 1909.**

Programme.

- 6.0 p.m. Assemble at Central Library, New Bridge Street. Visit to Mr. J. E. Wilson's Binding Establishment, where the various processes will be explained.
- 7.0 p.m. Meeting of Committee.
- 7.30 p.m. General Meeting.
 - Member's Paper: "Libraries and Education," by **R. M. DANIEL**, Public Library, South Shields.
 - Associate's Paper: "The Relationship of the Branch Library to the Central Library," by **E. M. SCOTT**, Lady Stephenson Library Newcastle.

The Benwell Branch Library, which is an open access library, is situated in Atkinson Road, and may be conveniently reached by electric car. Cars, to Elswick Road, should be taken either at the Monument (fare 1½d.) or at Blenheim Street (a few minutes from the Central Station, fare 1d.)

LIBRARIES IN THE RURAL DISTRICTS.*

By HARRY FARR.

Chief Librarian, Cardiff Public Libraries.

During recent years the Public Library movement in this Country has made great progress. The extension of local government and the munificence of Mr. Carnegie have led to the adoption of the Libraries Acts in a great many places which had hitherto held aloof.

But if few large towns are now without a public library, nearly all the smaller towns, hamlets and villages in the United Kingdom are still without this indispensable instrument of education. Here and there, thanks to individual enthusiasm and liberality, village libraries have been successfully established; but if we consider what has been done during the sixty years which have elapsed since the passing of the Ewart Act, we shall see what slight prospect there is of progress under present conditions. It will be evident that the provision of libraries for the villages will afford plenty of scope in the immediate future for the energy and enthusiasm of all those who have the welfare of the villages and libraries at heart.

Little seems to have been done towards securing the benefits of the Acts for the villages and rural districts prior to the years 1892-4, when the Public Libraries Acts were consolidated and the Local Government Act was passed. Up to then the only small places which had adopted the Acts were the rural parish of Tarves in Aberdeenshire (1883), and the ancient borough of Queenborough, Kent (1887); and only four other places with populations of less than 5,000 viz., Kirkwall (1890), Middlewich (1899), Much Woolton (1890), and Thurso (1872). From 1892 to 1908 forty-five places in England with populations of less than 5,000 adopted the Acts; 25 in Scotland; 16 in Wales; 6 in Ireland; and 1 in the Isle of Man. Thus the total number of adoptions to date amongst the thousands of villages, rural districts, and small towns in the three kingdoms does not yet amount to 100, and some of these have not put the Acts into force. Even where libraries have been established they are carried on with difficulty. The product of the rate, if the local council levy the full penny, is but a few pounds. Consequently these libraries have to be administered by voluntary workers. In many cases they are only open one or two evenings a week, and their stock of books is necessarily small and poor.

*Read before the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Assistants' Association at the Town Hall, Croydon, on 16th June, 1909.

Still, comparatively ineffective as they are, they do exercise a beneficial influence, and should be regarded as library outposts to be strengthened as opportunity offers.

In February, 1891, on the occasion of the opening of the St. Martin's Library, London, the late Mr. Gladstone argued against a proposal that an annual grant from the Treasury should be made towards the establishment and maintenance of rural libraries. Instead, he hoped that the liberality and enlightened judgment of the great landed proprietors would meet the difficulty and enable the villagers to enjoy the great advantages of institutions of this kind. More than eighteen years have passed, and there is no sign of the fulfilment of this hope, nor is it reasonable to expect landed proprietors to provide and support rural libraries any more than it would be to expect them to provide rural education. It is the duty of the general public and not of any one class. There have, of course, been instances where they have helped the village libraries movements. The Claydon libraries are a noteworthy example. Middle Claydon adopted the Acts in 1893, and was the first village public library in England. The village has a population of about 220, and the rate produces £9. Botolph Claydon and Steeple Claydon adopted the Acts in 1897 and 1901 respectively. The former has a population of some 400, and the latter 800, the rate producing £12 and £15 respectively. The three libraries now possess between 6,000 and 7,000 volumes altogether and circulate during the winter months about 500 volumes a week. Their establishment and flourishing condition are almost wholly due to Sir Edmund and Lady Verney, who first of all had to persuade the villagers that they wanted a library, and then to teach them what good books really were. Their talented daughters have acted as librarians, and the libraries have been fostered and their interests looked after in every possible way.

Various efforts have been made to supply village libraries by voluntary means. There have been made to supply village libraries by voluntary means. There are, of course, the parish libraries and Sunday school libraries in connection with churches and chapels. Organised attempts to supply books to the villages and Cheshire Institutes; the Yorkshire Union of Educational Institutes, the Central Circulating Library, and the Bishop of Hereford. All these are travelling libraries worked on the principle of a small subscription entitling the subscribing body (village library, institute, club, or the like) to a box of books, which is changed periodically. The first of these organisations to establish a travelling village library was the Lancashire and Cheshire Union, in 1847. This was carried on with more or

less success up to some time in the seventies, when wear and tear and want of interest on the part of the Institutes brought it to an end for a time. But in 1892 the scheme was revived and since then it has been in continuous operation. The Union supplies 200 volumes a year in boxes of 50 a quarter to libraries of less than 100 members for a guinea per annum, and to libraries of from 100 to 500 members for a guinea and a half per annum. At present there are 35 institutions affiliated (18 in Lancashire and 17 in Cheshire) with about 1,500 borrowers and an average annual issue at each of 130 volumes. The Travelling Library contains 80 sections, and a total stock of 4,000 volumes.

The Yorkshire Village Library in connection with the Yorkshire Union was established in 1854 and has since been carried on without intermission, but with varying fortune. At first few villages became associated, and for many years there were not more than 30. In 1872 greater interest began to be taken in the Library, and in 1878 a special fund was raised to extend its usefulness. In 1887 the stock comprised 23,000 volumes, and 170 villages were affiliated. In 1898 high water mark was reached with a stock of 40,000 volumes, and 200 villages in association; but since then a decline has taken place. The organization is the same as that of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union, the same number of books being supplied on the same terms, but institutes outside Yorkshire are allowed to subscribe at two guineas per annum.

The Central Circulating Library was founded in 1888. It was originally intended to supplement the Sunday school, parish, and day school libraries of Liverpool and neighbourhood, and was afterwards extended to Cheshire and the Welsh Intermediate Schools of Flint and Denbigh. Superseded in most of its work by public libraries and other agencies, the Library turned its attention wholly to rural libraries. At present it is serving rural libraries all over the country. More libraries are on its books now than ever before, and its annual circulation runs into thousands. This "Mudie for Parishes" has its headquarters in Liverpool, and is evidently doing invaluable work of a kind not attempted by any other organisation. New books are supplied at regular intervals for a very small subscription, 5/- a year entitling a library to 7 books at a time, 10/6 to 15, and £1 1s. to 30. The books are changed three times a year, and the unique feature of the scheme is that the libraries are allowed to select what books they like as far as possible. The income consists of the subscriptions of the libraries, supplemented occasionally from funds from some entertainment. All the administrative work is done by voluntary workers under the direction of the secretary, Miss M. E.

Harrison, to whose enthusiasm the existence of the Central Circulating Library is mainly due.

In the early part of 1906 a system of school and village libraries was organised for the County of Hereford. An anonymous benefactor enabled the Bishop of Hereford to offer every elementary school and 100 of the poorer rural parishes in the County a box of 50 books which may be exchanged three times a year. The villages and schools are formed into groups of 12, which exchange boxes among themselves. The books supplied to each group of 12 are the same. These travelling libraries have done and are doing very valuable work, but they have very great limitations. Their membership is of a floating kind. The funds available do not permit new or expensive books to be bought to any extent. The stock of books is maintained in condition with difficulty. Obviously, though they may serve the general reader fairly well, to the student they are almost valueless.

It is evident that the provision of libraries for the rural districts has barely begun. The average villager has no conception of the meaning of a library and no means of getting books if he had. In this respect he would be better off in New South Wales or Canada, where in the most remote districts admirably selected travelling libraries may be easily had. But here in the Mother Country he is cut off from nearly every source of enlightenment. If he is intelligent and sagacious he betakes himself to the town, and will continue to do so until village life is made more tolerable. At the last census the number of farm labourers had everywhere diminished, and in each of the purely agricultural counties this diminution amounted to thousands. In many districts the withdrawal of the more intelligent to the towns has left the village populations ignorant and degraded and the civilising influence of books in village life is everywhere badly needed. Well selected travelling libraries such as the McGill University Library, Montreal (on behalf of the Government) provides for Canadians must be insisted on as the minimum which every county council should provide. Reading rooms, without religious, political, or social bias, where the villagers can read the best newspapers and magazines, must everywhere be provided. At various country centres, buildings should be erected, where technical instruction can be given, libraries organized, and books distributed. In many countries reference libraries ought to be established, containing at least liberal supplies of books on the various industries of the particular counties, and serving as depositories for historical documents of all kinds. The more extensive general reference works could be acquired gradually, and an institution built up which would

benefit the intellectual and industrial life of the whole county.

The recent Education Act, which placed the organisation and administration of rural education in the hands of the County Councils, points the way to the real solution of the village library problem. Hitherto no attempt to provide a system of village libraries adequate to the needs of the rural districts was possible because there was no organization to initiate and administer such a system. But now the Education Committees of the County Councils afford an organization which could easily undertake the provision of rural libraries. Unfortunately, the County Councils are at present not empowered to administer the Libraries Acts, and until they are granted this extension of their powers they cannot take any steps in this direction. What reasonable argument can be advanced against giving County Councils powers already exercised by the Parish, Rural District, and Town Councils it is difficult to conceive. They already have power to provide books on technical education, and the Cambridge County Council actually has a central library from which small boxes of books on agriculture and allied subject are lent out to villages and schools for a limited time.

In the Isle of Wight the liberality of Sir Charles Seeley has enabled us to see what might be done if the County Councils were empowered to adopt the Acts. In 1904 he made a gift of £5,000 to the County Council for public library purposes and also presented some 10,000 volumes. A central library was built and equipped at Newport and arrangements were made to supply all the parishes in the island with books. The Central Library is open to any resident in the island, and recent statistics show that 1,955 borrowers are registered at Newport with a circulation of 52,495 per annum, and 443 borrowers at the thirty country branches with a circulation of 10,299.

There is also the Westmorland scheme worked by the County Education Committee through the Kendal Public Library whereby each village school is supplied with a travelling library for the school children. These instances show that the educational reorganization carried out in recent years has stimulated the desire for books and emphasised the absence of libraries.

In the towns the demand for scientific and technical books is becoming more and more insistent, and this demand must spread to the villages as the standard of education is raised and its advantages appreciated. Much of the money now spent on rural technical instruction is wasted because the students and teachers have no working libraries at hand. It must be clearly understood that libraries are not only educational institutions in themselves. They are also the necessary complement of the school, the college, and

the university. They not only provide the indispensable material of the educational worker but they are rapidly encroaching upon his domain. What is the function of the public library as we understand it to-day? It is to diffuse knowledge and to promote culture. Library Committees and their Librarians have to provide the intellectual food, both light and solid, of all classes. We have to place at the disposal of the public the latest results of the labours of intellectual workers all the world over. We have to provide books for the working man and the business man; in fact, to make books circulate as widely as possible, and to the best possible purpose. So long as in the rural districts books hardly circulate at all and libraries are almost non-existent our work is only partially performed.

THE FUNCTION OF A CENTRAL LIBRARY AND THE PROBLEM OF BRANCHES.

By ARTHUR J. HAWKES, *Leeds Public Libraries.*

(Continued from page 375).

It cannot be said that a detached district, already served by a branch library, has less than a two-fifths interest in the central, even though we assume three-fifths of the rate collected from it to be rightfully absorbed by the branch establishment; but I take this as a reasonable figure as I consider that the branch library should fulfil for its immediate locality practically the whole of the library's function as an instrument of action—its purpose as an intellectual tool-house. Those living in the district who resort to the institution chiefly or solely for the purpose of taking out books of practical instruction in the various arts, industries, and avocations, should be encouraged to make use of the branch establishments by the provision there of a very adequate supply of books of this class. Herein, to my mind, is the *raison d'être* of the branch library. It surrenders to it a whole field of activity which in no wise trenches upon the function of the central, or retards its growth or expansion.

Let us consider the matter a few moments. A carpenter living in an outlying district wishes to make himself acquainted with the various kinds of glue, their processes of manufacture and respective applications, particularly, of course, as they affect his own trade. A general work on agglutinants serves his purpose. Now, presuming the man to be reasonably acquainted with his trade, he will be able to extract from the volume all the information he seeks in a very little time. It is not a matter for study—merely a question of intelligent apprehension; and two or three days at most will

suffice to give him a full insight into the various employments of the galley-pot, or rather, its contents. It is the same with the gardener, who, as the seasons pass from seed-time to harvest, feels the need of advice in such practical matters as the sowing of scarlet-runners, the pruning of roses, or the planting out of geraniums; or the electrician whose literary appetite finds its satisfaction in books of the Bottone type;—these people do not seek to *understand* things, they just want to know how and what to do. The gardener would no more dream of reading De Vries' *Plant-Breeding*, than the electrician would think of perusing Russell's *Theory of Alternating Currents*. It is slight practical assistance that is needed and nothing more.

Not only would it be a hardship to compel such to borrow at the central, it is inadvisable—the administration gains great advantage in their segregation. By encouraging them to frequent a branch not only is congestion relieved at the central, but there is relegated to the branches a class of work which can be quite as efficiently carried out by them as by the main institution. Since the kind of book I have in mind—short practical treatises upon every sort of topic—form the greatest bulk of the literature in a library, at least in the Useful Arts, Fine Arts, and Science sections, an opportunity for their limitation is an important matter. The central library need stock only enough of them to meet the requirements of its immediate neighbourhood; it is not called upon to overload its shelves with sufficient to supply the whole town. This it must do unless the borrowers of this class of work are deliberately encouraged to go elsewhere.

This system of differentiation enables the central library to be developed in a proper way. Its space and wealth are reserved for sterner stuff, making it the chief organ in the fulfilment of the public library's second purpose—to be an institution of research and learning. In a word, the central library should be a real library; should contain those epoch-making works which have definitely added to the fabric of knowledge. It seems to me a great mistake to put the works of this class to any extent into branch institutions, unless the branch provides for a really large population; and this branches should not do. Large branches are wrong in principle; set up instead several smaller ones. Books of this solid order are not sufficiently read to warrant their inclusion, and their purchase, which means actual or approximate duplication of works already in the central, is a sheer waste of funds much better employed in developing the central.

Perhaps the citation of a special case will best serve the purposes of my argument. I recently visited a moderate-sized branch library, whose precise locality I will not disclose, except to say that it

was not Bournemouth. It was a very excellent library, so far as it went, for it contained a lot of good books; but a critical examination made it evident to me that the administration did not exactly understand their business—or perhaps I ought to say, *my* view of their business. On the shelves was a copy of the two-volume edition of Bosanquet's *Logic*, evidently purchased new. The price of this addition to the collection was 21s. net; and as it had been borrowed three times, the cost works out at 7s. a reader. Now two less expensive books upon the same subject would have been of far greater value—one advanced and the other elementary. As an elementary treatise was already included, the former only was necessary. If this be represented by, say, Carveth Read's *Logic*, not very advanced but an excellent work, which can be got second-hand for about 2s. 6d., you will have saved 18s. 6d. There was also a copy of Catlin's *North American Indians*, which had been out twice. A much more popular work dealing with the British Redskin, and altogether a more satisfactory acquisition, would have been Hill-Tout's *Natives of British North America* usually obtainable at about 2s. second-hand. On these two works, at least 25s. to 30s. might have been saved; and since the central may be presumed already to include both *Bosanquet* and *Catlin*, enough money is in hand to make an expensive and hitherto unrepresented addition to the central lending or reference department. I have chosen the foregoing illustrations because they were actual cases, but my argument must be understood as being chiefly directed to scientific and technical books.

It is probably a very enjoyable emotion for a librarian to reflect that he is the director of a fine system of libraries; and I suppose the bigger and more important and ponderous each collection of books appears, the more pronounced the emotion. But that way of looking at things is not the true child of ambition; it does not tend to promote actual working efficiency. When pride and satisfaction are tempered with discretion and a public-spirited ambition, neither Plato nor Catlin will be growing mouldy upon the shelves of a branch library. At least that is *my* view of the matter.

It may be equally hard upon the would-be borrower to require him to go to the central to borrow Kant's *Ethics* or Heath's *Treatise on Geometrical Optics*, as it would be in the case of a primer of Metaphysics or Heath's elementary work on *Optics*; but a moment's thought will perceive a big difference. In the first place the person who reads Kant never descends to Rappoport, and the reader of Meyer's *Kinetic Theory of Gases* has not only got somewhat beyond the rudiments of pneumatics, but has probably left textbook physics a long way behind. It is there-

fore to the advantage of the advanced student to borrow from the library where, in any circumstances, there must be the largest selection of this type of work. Especially is this the case with the open-access libraries, where the borrower searches the shelves for himself. Then, again, the perusal of a book of this order is not the performance of a day or two. A fortnight or a month is none too long a period, even for a person fairly conversant with its subject matter. His journeys to the library are accordingly less frequent than those of his less advanced brother, and, as a general rule, he may safely be presumed to have more leisure.

The central library should be looked upon as a sort of big reference library, a "feeder" library if you like, to the branches, from which the higher and less used class of book may be borrowed when needed. To emphasize this parental office the system may be resorted to of inserting slips in the branch books bearing a list of the works on the same subject in the central. These should have a note at the foot making it clear that the books listed can be obtained through the branch, if desired. Or the borrower may be permitted to go to the central himself with his branch ticket. To this latter course I see no objection whatever, indeed, I am inclined to think it the more satisfactory. The practice of inserting slips in the books themselves has several advantages over any other method of directing readers' attention to other departments. In this case it is a deal cheaper than a printed union-catalogue, and is superior to one on cards in the fact that the reader always has before him just the books he is interested in. If the recognised student is encouraged to take out his ticket at the central the number of books that will have to be brought to the branches for occasional readers will be few, and the trouble accruing slight.

This manner of uniting the central and branches upon a systematic and well-defined basis, making each render a somewhat different service, tends to greater efficiency and greater economy. Undoubtedly in its general aspects this is the view generally taken of the respective functions of branch and central; but so far its limits have been but vaguely realized, and without clear definition, precision and efficiency are impossible.

In coming to the question as to whether the books at branches should or should not be duplicates of those already in the central we approach a rather more controvertible topic. The attitude I propose taking up in the matter seems likely to awaken opposition, for it conflicts somewhat with the consensus of expressed opinion. My answer is, not that they *should* be, it is true, but that they might just as well be in view of the very small advantage to be obtained by diversity. Particularly do I think

this to be the case in the matter of selection for the various branches. The opinion expressed by one librarian that "A library of four branches each of which has five books on, say, geology, dissimilar from those in the other three institutions, is four times as rich as if the same selection of five books were repeated in each" is absolutely an illusion. If instead of four times, we put the added value at one hundredth part, we shall approximate to the truth. The difference in matter of fact between any five elementary works upon geology is insignificant, practically nil; although in matter of presentment and educational value one may be much superior to the others. This is the chief argument in favour of duplicating the one book: the one which sets forth the same facts as its rivals in much the best order. We will take geology as a case in point, and select three books of the same grade for comparison. I have brought them with me.* For my part, I can see no difference between them, except in treatment and style; and from that standpoint there can be no doubt which is the best work. The reader will get more from a perusal of Roberts's *Introduction* than from any two of the others.

On the other hand the disadvantages of diversity are pointed enough. Following my suggestion to have no more of this class of work in the central than is necessary to satisfy its own clientèle, it would be unnecessarily depleting its stock, without corresponding gain to the reader, to despatch such a book to a branch because the borrower imagined it to be an improvement upon the one available at his branch. And of course this would be true under the no-two-of-the-same principle. Roberts at the central will always be superior to Evans or Marr at the branch. In addition there is the trouble of transportation; the overloading of the union-catalogue, already an unwieldy and awe-inspiring machine to the uninitiated; the extra expense of printing; and the loss of simplicity and time in the details of purchase, accession, and cataloguing, all practically for nothing.

Where, of course, a branch should be supplied independently of the central is in the peculiar needs of the district. If children flourish in a particular neighbourhood, books suited to juvenile educational requirements should be adequately supplied. Or if it be a district where the workers of a particular industry congregate, then the branch should be thoroughly furnished in this respect, even beyond the limits of the branch "class" previously indicated. The branch might indeed usurp the functions of the central, and be entirely responsible for the literature on the subject in question.

Such a step must not be taken, however, unless that section of the community engaged in the particular activity is almost or practically confined to the

one district. For instance, schoolmasters and teachers probably predominate in one locality; but there never was a town where a large percentage were not more or less spread over its entire area. So that books on education could not reasonably be delegated to a branch. Furthermore, schoolmasters are interested in far more than the one subject of juvenile instruction: in sections they are interested in all the spheres of learning, and to this class alone the advantage of having all the advanced and original treatises assembled at one central establishment is immense. Leaving out all other considerations, the case for centralization is by this single illustration almost beyond challenge. Duplication is not a way out, for duplication means increased expenditure without increased efficiency, and with limited funds must inevitably lead to inefficiency.

The tendency which exists of turning branches into local "centrals" is undoubtedly due to a realization of their inadequacy when looked upon as independent institutions. When once a beginning has been made of providing each branch library with a back-bone of solid learning an air of independence gathers round it, and the librarian getting his point of view unconsciously established to this perspective, sees big blanks in the landscape which instinctively he sets about filling. Whereas if it is thoroughly understood and recognised as a fundamental principle of establishment that branches are merely outposts of the central, this feeling of incompleteness does not affect him: the knowledge of the greater completeness of the whole well satisfies; whilst the majesty of the major collection becomes a credit to the town, and a dignified monument to human genius.

Under the impulse just noticed, branches grow slowly into independent efficiency—but very slowly. The penny rate of no ordinary municipality is sufficient to maintain three or four really efficient and independent libraries. The consequence is that with the development of big branch libraries a loud demand for an increased, even an unlimited rate has arisen. There are now some 40 towns which have obtained special powers for the levying of rates at varying figures up to 3½ in the £, and in nearly all the chief reasons cited as creating the need therefor is the provision of branch libraries. And, furthermore, be it noted that these 40 towns mostly possess a rateable value per population far above the average. This surely is a mistake, and is to be strongly deprecated. There is nothing more calculated to prejudice people against the library movement—or against any other social benefaction, for that matter—than high rates; ratepayers have a habit of thinking through their pockets. Opposition to the library movement is certainly not yet dead; the attitude of several London boroughs

is only too well known, and the speech by a Mayor at the opening of another was ominous. It is hardly a wise thing to stir the embers of reaction, and when the discontented folk realise that their money is largely being wasted upon what are little more than book warehouses, the opposition will grow powerful.

To set up a big library in every petty district is contrary to the whole spirit of municipal government. One might just as reasonably support the demand for a British Museum in every street. The principles underlying local government are not amenable to very precise definition, although to the mind's eye they are patent enough. Local government is the result of an unconscious social development in which "locality" is the dominating factor in prescribing its boundaries, and economical considerations the conserving principle: it conducts certain forms of administration which experience shows to be most efficiently and economically carried out by local governing authorities. Certainly the principle underlying the mutual support and supply of literature is economy. The *limits* of local government are pretty easily determined; the limit at which financial advantages are outweighed by social disadvantages. Experience in the past has shown, and present-day experience emphasizes that the area formed by the common interests of the community, dating sometimes from centuries back in the past, is the true locality within which common benefit from local government will best operate. No matter how big that area may become, experience impels to centralization upon these lines. Despite the mosaic-like accretion which characterizes the growth of London, the general utility demands centralization; the common interests of the community are co-extensive with its homogeneousness.

In regard to a library service, it may be admitted that the highest usefulness is not secured by centralization upon such an immense scale; but the other extreme of dividing urban areas up into small patches is without doubt from an economical point of view utterly wasteful. No case whatever can be made out for a second library encroaching in the slightest degree upon the functions of a central for populations under 200,000. It is only when such figures are reached that a municipal library becomes a real success from both points of view—efficiency and economy. The average income in this country from the penny rate for every 200,000 of population is something between £5,000 and £6,000, which is ample for establishing, developing and maintaining, one really efficient central library and half-a-dozen branches upon the limited lines indicated; whilst a population of 200,000 supplies just about enough advanced readers and students to warrant the general and continuous

purchase of the most expensive of technical and learned publications. In libraries serving populations below the 100,000 mark, it is a very common complaint that insufficient demand for such and such a book prohibits its purchase. To buy a book for the use of two persons would not be administering to the general utility; but when these two persons have grown into six, a case can be made out for its acquisition. It is therefore quite evident that greater efficiency naturally accompanies greater centralization. And the highest efficiency, the greatest utility, and the smallest expense is the aim librarians should steadfastly keep in view.

PROCEEDINGS.

NORTH EASTERN BRANCH: SECOND SESSION INAUGURAL MEETING.

The Inaugural meeting of the Second Session was held (by kind permission of Mr. Ernest Bailey, Chief Librarian) at the South Shields Public Library, on Wednesday, June 30th, 1909. Mr. JOSEPH WALTON (Newcastle) Chairman of the Branch, presided over an attendance of 35. At the meeting of the Committee Mr Harrison Burgess, South Shields, was elected auditor for the ensuing year, and 1 Member and 9 Associates were approved for membership. Mr. D. W. Herdman, the retiring Chairman, was accorded a cordial vote of thanks. THE HONORARY SECRETARY (Mr. T. E. Turnbull) submitted a report on the progress of the Branch during the year, as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have pleasure in submitting the Report of the first session of the Branch. The Membership now consists of 20 Members and 37 Associates, compared with 18 Seniors and 27 Juniors a year ago. There have been but 2 resignations, whilst 1 Member and 2 Associates have left the profession. 16 Assistants have joined the Branch during the year, and 3 Associates are to be congratulated on attaining a Membership status. A total membership of 57 and a net increase on the year of 12 must be considered eminently satisfactory when the restricted area covered by the Branch is remembered. Meetings, at which the average attendance has been 37 (another satisfactory feature of this report), have been held at Newcastle, Tynemouth, Sunderland, and Gateshead. Thanks are given to Miss Forman and to Messrs. Berwick Sayers, Briggs, Wilson, Lambert, Yates, and Walker for contributing interesting and stimulating papers, the standard of which has been uniformly high. The Librarians of the Libraries named above are also sincerely thanked for permission

to visit their Libraries, as well as for the interest they have displayed in our deliberations. Announcements and Reports of all the meetings have appeared regularly in *The Library Assistant*, which in its extended form now holds a position of increased importance as a library periodical. I wish, in conclusion, to express my thanks to the Officers and Committee of the Branch for their support and assistance during the peculiarly trying period of the first year of a society's existence.

—Yours faithfully, T. E. TURNBULL."

It was decided to hold the next meeting at the Carnegie Branch Library, Benwell, Newcastle, in September.

At the General Meeting Mr. E. BAILEY welcomed the members to South Shields in an appreciative speech, remarking that it was a tribute to the interest the assistants present took in their work that there was such a good attendance on so beautiful an evening. His Committee no less than himself was interested in that gathering. THE CHAIRMAN thanked Mr. Bailey, and spoke of the good record South Shields had both as a library and as a training school for librarians.

At considerable personal inconvenience PROFESSOR A. KEOGH, M.A. (Reference Librarian, Yale University, U.S.A., and President of the Connecticut Library Association), attended the meeting for the purpose of addressing the members on "The Training, Employment, and Compensation of the American Library Assistant." Professor Keogh, after being introduced to each member individually, delivered a most interesting and valuable address, in which humour was ingeniously blended with the more serious matter on hand. He spoke of the reputation Americans had with some Englishmen, quoting Dr. Johnson's opinion that they were a "race of convicts," and that he "was willing to love all mankind except an American." Again, there was a saying about the early Australian settlers that might be applied to Americans, namely, that "they left their country for their country's good." On the other hand, an inscription existed in Connecticut, U.S.A. (the State to which the speaker belonged), which ran: "God sifted a nation and founded this colony." The truth probably lay somewhere between the two. Coming to his subject, he said that the American library assistant was drawn from a rather higher stratum of society than the English assistant, the reason being that no person was taken into an American library who had not had a high school education or its equivalent. The general standard of education in the States, however, was not so high as here, but the standard of intelligence was higher. There were several ways of entering the profession in America, and the average age of entrants was about 18. Some libraries held entrance examinations for those otherwise suit-

able, and 75 per cent. of marks allowed a candidate to commence as an apprentice. Often half the candidates failed in these examinations, which were by no means easy. The procedure in an ordinary public library was generally that an assistant served for seven months without salary—one month being devoted to theory and six months to practice. There were examinations at various periods of this time of probation, on the results of which the decision as to permanent employment was made. Even then, however, the successful candidate had to await a vacancy. Another method of entering was by means of the Library Schools, of which there were eleven in the United States. The New York State School was the best and required a degree for entrance, and only an approved degree was accepted. Thus, training in librarianship was often post-graduate work, and was equivalent to the educational courses of doctors or lawyers in this country. Of 216 library school graduates last year only ten were men. After going through the school, an assistant was practically assured of a fairly good position, which he obtained by applying to the different libraries. Positions were not publicly advertised, but assistants were recommended by one librarian to another. Librarians specialised more in America than here, and, indeed, a 'general' assistant was not wanted. This certainly precluded an all-round knowledge, which was in disfavour of the system, but it made for greater efficiency of the library. An assistant's education by no means ceased on appointment. At Newark, for instance, Mr. Dana circulated amongst the staff library periodicals and other helpful magazines, and the general public had no right to them. There, too, the new books were placed in the staff room for one day to enable the assistants to gain a knowledge of accessions. Executive positions in America were generally held by men, but the prejudice against women was losing strength. The American believed, with Edison, that his work consisted of two per cent. inspiration and 98 per cent. perspiration. The scale of wages was commensurate with the preparation and was therefore higher than here. The business man on library boards wisely supported high salaries, and, of course, the income of a town of the same size in America and England differed very materially, to the latter's disadvantage. Professor Keogh had prepared statistics of salaries paid in certain American libraries, which he read to the meeting. The salaries for each position were given in detail and the specific libraries where they were paid were mentioned. The cost of living in the same grade was about the same, he proceeded, as in England, but the standard of comfort was higher. Graduates of library schools were demanding 1,000 dollars a year, and he thought that in ten

years' time all would get that amount. These were, of course, the best men. Every librarian of importance possessed a university degree, but the fact was not advertised as here. For instance, he had known a librarian for five years before he was aware that he was a Doctor of Literature.

A vote of thanks to Professor Keogh for his excellent address was passed with acclamation.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. J. Walton) read his Inaugural Address and spoke of the tendencies of the librarianship of to-day. He commended the signs of bibliographical activity which the Library Association was displaying, and mentioned other matters that might usefully receive attention, including an annual record of bibliographical lists appearing in books. We hope to print Mr. Walton's address shortly. In a brief discussion, owing to the late hour, the VICE-CHAIRMAN (Mr. W. Wilson) appealed to the Library Association to institute correspondence classes in bibliography, the root science of librarianship. THE HONORARY SECRETARY (Mr. T. E. Turnbull) mentioned that something was already being done for fugitive bibliography by *The Library Journal* and *The Annual Library Index*. He would like to see the classes of standard books whose classification was at all doubtful fixed by co-operative effort and thus secure uniform classing of the same book by different libraries. PROFESSOR KEOGH said that several French and German bibliographical magazines also recorded current bibliography, but the lists were of little use to English librarians as foreign books so greatly preponderated.

The proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bailey, the Librarian.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATION, JUNE 7-12, 1909.

PASS LIST.

Section 1.—LITERARY HISTORY (13 candidates).

Class 1 (Honours)—

H. Grindle, Public Libraries, Birmingham.

Class 2 (Merit)—

*M. Clark, Public Libraries, Hornsey.

Class 3 (Pass)—

*C. H. Bird, Public Libraries, Woolwich; D. Gray, Public Library, Carlisle; T. W. Huck, Literary and Scientific Institution, Saffron Walden;

*S. Kirby, Public Library, Wood Green; W. Spencer, Public Library, Bingley; E. E. G. Tucker, Library of the Reform Club, London.

Section 2.—BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Class 1, nil. Class 2, nil.

Class 3—

*Miss O. E. Clarke, A.A. (Oxon), Public Libraries, Islington; *Miss Ethel Gerard, Public Library, Worthing; A. J. Hawkes, Public Libraries, Leeds; S. Rigg Public Library Carlisle.

Section 3.—CLASSIFICATION (17 candidates).

Class 1, nil. Class 2, nil.

Class 3—

F. W. Cudlip, Bishopsgate Institute, London, E.C.; *R. Lillie, Great Western Railway Mechanics' Institution, Swindon; J. McKnight, The Library, Victoria University, Manchester; J. Roy, Public Libraries, Glasgow.

*Section 4.—CATALOGUING (48 candidates).**Class 1.*

J. Roy, Public Libraries, Glasgow.

Class 2.

*G. R. Bolton, Public Libraries, St. Pancras; Miss G. A. Boyd, Public Library, Kettering; *P. W. Camplin, Public Library, Hounslow; W. T. Carter, Public Library, Warwick; O. G. Caselton, Public Libraries, Kensington; Miss J. Cuthbertson, Public Libraries, Glasgow; *H. Fostall, Public Libraries, Sunderland; Dr. A. Gillespie, Public Libraries, Westminster; J. McKnight, The Library, Victoria University, Manchester; Miss M. J. Perry, Public Library, Govan, N.B.; H. A. Sharp, Public Libraries, Kensington; *R. Wright, Public Libraries, Croydon.

Class 3.

*A. J. Avery, Public Library, Erith, Kent; L. Bacon, Public Libraries, Stepney; W. Burgess, Public Libraries, Birkenhead; L. C. Collison-Morley, 8, Upper Phillimore Place, W.; *J. Fagan, Public Libraries, Belfast; *S. E. Harrison, Public Library, Cheltenham; *H. Henderson, Public Library, Walthamstow; F. H. Herriott, Public Library, Hove; *R. W. Higgs, Public Library, Southend; L. E. Hull, Public Library, Wandsworth; Miss L. Hurley, Public Library, Finsbury; H. E. Ilott, Public Library, Wandsworth; *F. Jarratt, Public Library, Huddersfield; *S. W. Kitchener, Public Libraries, Hornsey; *E. Male, Public Library, Brighton; F. A. Meason, Public Libraries, Kensington; F. H. Mee, Public Libraries, Wigan; *W. H. Morgan, Public Libraries, Hammersmith; *J. Ormerod, Public Library, Gainsborough; *E. Pearson, Public Library, Newcastle-on-Tyne; D. Rhys Phillips, 78, Rhondda Street, Swansea; *J. Searson, Public Libraries, Glasgow; J. Sidwell, 52, Whitefriars Lane, Coventry; *C. H. Waite, Public Libraries, Kensington; *T. W. Wright, Public Libraries, Bolton.

*Section 5.—LIBRARY HISTORY (47 candidates).**Class 1.*

L. C. Collison-Morley, 8, Upper Phillimore Place, W.; Miss E. Fegan, M.A., Ladies College, Cheltenham; *Miss E. Lea, Public Libraries, Wigan; *F. W. C. Pepper, Public Libraries, Bolton; *A. C. Piper, Public Library, Brighton; *A. Webb, Public Library, Brighton.

Class 2.

W. T. Carter, Public Library, Warwick; J. Cranshaw, Public Libraries, Bolton; *P. A. Garner, Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.; *F. M. Glenn, Public Library, Harlesden; *H. Groom, Public Library, Harlesden; Miss A. MacMahon, 1, Gordon Villas, Swanage, Dorset; *J. Ross, Public Libraries, Sunderland.

Class 3.

*Miss E. Bobbitt, Public Libraries, Islington; *W. R. Bridge, Public Libraries, Battersea; Miss E. A. Bromley, Public Libraries, Islington; *Miss K. Chappell, Public Libraries, Islington; *Miss M. M. Coates, Public Libraries, Battersea; *E. C. Dodd, Public Libraries, Hornsey; S. A. Firth, Public Libraries, Birkenhead; *H. Griffiths, Public Libraries, Sunderland; Miss E. F. L. Jackson, Public Libraries, Islington; W. Pollitt, Public Libraries, Bolton; T. Potter, Public Libraries, Bolton; *W. J. Robeson, Public Library, Penge; Miss M. A. Sinclair, Public Library, Kettering;

*C. Tessier, Public Libraries, Hornsey; *H. W. Tomlinson, Public Libraries, East Ham; Miss A. Venndt, Public Libraries, Islington; *F. S. Waldron, Public Library, Plymouth; *T. W. Wright, Public Libraries, Bolton.

Section 6.—LIBRARY ROUTINE (111 candidates).

Class 1.

Miss A. Venndt, Public Libraries, Islington.

Class 2.

Miss E. S. Fegan, M.A., Ladies College, Cheltenham; *H. Krauss, Public Libraries, Croydon; *W. Ewart Owen, Public Library, Coventry; D. Rhys Phillips, 78, Rhondda Street, Swansea; *R. E. Smither, Public Library, Brighton; *T. W. Wright, Public Libraries, Bolton.

Class 3.

Miss D. Bath, Public Libraries, Islington; W. T. Berry, Public Libraries, Lambeth; *Miss E. E. Bobbitt, Public Libraries, Islington; *S. M. Bryant, Public Library, York; *R. J. Cooper, Public Libraries, Battersea; Miss A. Denton, Public Libraries, Islington; *E. C. Dodd, Public Libraries, Hornsey; J. D. Gifford, Public Libraries, Bolton; *R. O. Gray, Public Libraries, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; *Miss L. Green, Public Libraries, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Miss L. Hall, Public Libraries, Islington; Miss F. Hadley, 98, Hungerford Road, Camden Road, Islington; H. Hamer, Public Libraries, Bolton; *G. V. R. Hayward, Public Libraries, Watford; B. Hopson, Public Libraries, Liverpool; W. Jennings, Public Libraries, Kensington; *A. Kidd, Public Libraries, Woolwich; J. Kirk, Public Libraries, Bolton; W. Lillie, Public Library, Middlesbrough; *W. Mackay, Public Libraries, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Miss G. McKenzie, Public Libraries, Finsbury; *Miss M. Marchant, Public Libraries, Fulham; J. H. Milner, Public Libraries, Birmingham; *Miss N. A. Morgan, Public Libraries, Islington; *R. A. Pike, Public Library, Gt. Yarmouth; W. Pollitt, Public Libraries, Bolton; T. Potter, Public Libraries, Bolton; *W. A. Pratt, Public Libraries, Eastbourne; *B. E. Rathbone, Public Libraries, Northampton; *W. J. Robeson, Public Library, Penge; *F. Robinson, Public Library, Ipswich; Miss D. Robson, Public Libraries, Islington; *K. A. Ryde, Public Libraries, Bournemouth; *J. F. Scilly, Public Libraries, Belfast; *E. M. Scott, Public Libraries, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; H. A. Sharp, Public Libraries, Kensington; *W. H. Shawcross, Public Libraries, Woolwich; *F. T. Sleight, Public Libraries, Hull; *Miss W. E. Stevenson, Public Libraries, Islington; E. Sydney, Public Libraries, Bolton; H. Tempest, Public Libraries, Bootle; *H. W. Tomlinson, Public Libraries, East Ham; *L. Toole, Public Libraries, Battersea; *J. E. Walker, Public Library, Gateshead; W. G. Wilding, Public Libraries, Finsbury; *A. H. Yates, Public Libraries, Sunderland.

*Member of the L.A.A.

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

BARRETT, J. A. S., M.A., of Edinburgh, has been appointed librarian of University College, Dundee.

*COLE, F. J. P., sub-librarian, Huddersfield, has been appointed chief librarian.

ELLIS, A. G., of the British Museum, has been appointed assistant librarian of the India Office.

HARPER, B. J. sub-librarian, Stoke Newington has resigned in order to enter King's College, with a view to taking Holy Orders. Our good wishes go with Mr. Harper in the step he is taking.

*HARRISON, S. E., chief assistant, Cheltenham Public Library, has been appointed librarian, Bingham.

HOPSON, B.A.E., senior assistant, Kirkdale Branch, Liverpool, has been appointed librarian of the Anfield Branch.

*JARRATT, FRANK, senior assistant, Huddersfield, has been appointed sub-librarian.

KENYON, F. G., assistant keeper of manuscripts, British Museum, has been appointed principal librarian.

*ROSS, JAMES, senior assistant, Sunderland, has been appointed librarian of the Walton Branch, Liverpool. (The other selected candidates were Messrs. *M. H. B. Mash, Croydon, *Wyndham Morgan, Cardiff, and a local candidate).

*SIMS, ALFRED, senior assistant, Bournemouth Public Libraries, has been appointed librarian of the Bedford Literary and Scientific Institute and General Library.

WINSTANLEY, A. J., St. Helen's, has been appointed senior assistant, Liverpool. (The other selected candidates were Messrs. *H. S. Brunt, Sheffield University and *Edward Pearson, Newcastle.)

*Member of the L.A.A.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. F. Eidmans.

Our London members, and all who knew her, will hear with great regret of the unexpected death of Mrs. Eidmans, the wife of our member Mr. F. Eidmans, librarian of St. Olave's Library, Bermondsey, which occurred on Sunday, 18th July. Mrs. Eidmans, who was a valued member of several societies, was a constant visitor to our meetings, and her cheery personality and her real interest in all our doings will be greatly missed. The funeral, which took place at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green, was attended by several members of the profession; and at a recent meeting of the Bermondsy Borough Council a resolution of sympathy with Mr. Eidmans was unanimously carried. We offer our deepest sympathy to Mr. Eidmans in his great sorrow.

Arthur George Lockett.

It is also with very great regret that we record the death of Mr. Arthur George Lockett, librarian and curator of the Huddersfield Public Library and Art Galleries, at the comparatively early age of forty years. His death, from acute pneumonia, took place on June 29th after an illness of eight days. The funeral was a public function, and was attended by the Corporation and many public and private friends. Mr. Lockett was a native of Leek, Staffordshire. He entered the library profession as an assistant in the Nicholson Institute of that town, under Mr. William Hall. In 1889 Mr. Hall was appointed librarian of the Croydon Public Libraries, and in January of the following year Mr. Lockett followed his late chief—who had recently died—to Croydon as sub-librarian of the Central Library. Eleven months later he became librarian of the South Norwood Branch, a position he held until December, 1897, when he left to take up his new duties at Huddersfield. Mr. Lockett organised there a good open-access library, and many successful art exhibitions. Writing of Mr. Lockett, Mr. E. C. Grigsby, the librarian and secretary of the Croydon Literary and Scientific Institution, an old colleague, speaks of him as a man of "quiet and gentlemanly bearing . . . respected greatly by his junior assistants." Much sympathy will be felt for Mrs. Lockett, who with her husband was well known at professional gatherings.

A. G. Bradbury.

Mr. A. G. Bradbury, the much respected librarian of the Bingham Public Library, died, to the great sorrow of all who knew him, on June 26th. A local paper remarks that "the deceased gentleman was an exceedingly able librarian, and his skill, experience and knowledge of books were of the utmost value in the inauguration of the library, and his conduct of it has been marked by characteristic conscientious carefulness and assiduity." *S.B.*

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